

Atty. Dkt. No. 200208954-1

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 6, 2005. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is requested.

I. **Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103.**

A. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-13, and 15

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohba et al in view of Kretschmann et al (6,836,672).

Applicants are submitting a Declaration pursuant to Rule 1.131 that establishes invention of the claimed subject matter prior to the January 15, 2003 United States filing date of the Kretschmann et al reference. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejections based in whole or in part on Kretschmann et al are overcome. Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

B. Claims 3, 10, and 14

Claims 3 depends upon claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable. Claim 10 depends upon claim 7 and is allowable for at least the same reasons claim 7 is allowable. Claim 14 depends upon claim 11 and is allowable for at least the same reasons claim 11 is allowable. Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

C. Claims 16-20

Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohba et al in view of Kretschmann et al and Chapman et al.

Applicants are submitting a Declaration pursuant to Rule 1.131 that establishes invention of the claimed subject matter prior to the January 15, 2003 United States filing date of the Kretschmann et al reference. Accordingly,

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Applicants submit that the rejections based in whole or in part on Kretschmann et al are overcome. Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

II. Conclusion.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Date

1/6/06

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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